

Dec 2019/Jan 2020

Volume 15, Issue 1

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Draft Friant Ranch Guidance released for

In December 2018, the California Supreme Court in the case of Sierra Club v. County of Fresno (2018) 6 Cal. 5th 502 regarding the proposed Friant Ranch Project determined the air quality analysis in the environmental impact report (EIR) prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was inadequate because it did not make “a reasonable effort to substantively connect the Project’s air quality impacts to likely health consequences.” The Court determined that “the EIR should be revised to relate the expected adverse air quality impacts to likely health consequences or explain in meaningful detail why it is not feasible at the time of drafting to provide such an analysis.”

The Sac Metro Air District prepared an Interim Recommendation for Friant Ranch providing direction to lead agencies on how to meet the intent of the court’s ruling.

Since the Interim Recommendation was released, Sac Metro Air District has been working with its consultant, Ramboll, on a modeling effort to support new Friant Ranch guidance. The guidance will provide screening health information for projects at or below regional CEQA thresholds of significance emissions levels and selected strategic area projects above thresholds of significance emissions levels. Additionally, modeling guidance will be offered for large projects located outside the strategic areas.

The draft guidance can be downloaded from the Sac Metro Air District’s website: http://www.airquality.org/LandUseTransportation/Documents/SMAQMD_FriantRanch_DraftFinalPublic.pdf. Please submit comments by Friday, February 28 to khuss@airquality.org.

Input Requested: Streamlining the AQMP/ GHGRP Process

The Sac Metro AQMD would like your input on a form we are developing to simplify the creation and review of operational air quality and greenhouse gas mitigation plans (AQMPs and GHGRPs).

The form requires information on topics such as: existing land use designations, public facilities and urban services financing plans, VMT assumptions, energy standard assumptions, and mitigation measure enforcement mechanisms.

We hope that project proponents and consultants will submit the form in lieu of or to summarize the project’s AQMP and GHGRP. This will reduce local jurisdiction review time by ensuring that all the necessary information is provided.

The form can be viewed at http://www.airquality.org/LandUseTransportation/Documents/DRAFT_AQMP_GHGRP%20form_1.docx

Please provide comments by Friday, February 28, 2020 to Rachel DuBose at rdubose@airquality.org.

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The Climate Change team welcomes Ali Lehman

The Sac Metro Air District is proud to announce Ali Lehman as its 2019/2020 Civic Spark fellow. Ali hails from Wisconsin, but most recently moved to Sacramento from Baltimore, where she studied math and environmental science at Johns Hopkins University. There, through her studies and work in the community, she realized the acute need for climate justice and action for any hope of avoiding omnicide.

In previous positions, she spent time using GIS to create community maps, organizing for environmental justice movements, and pursuing a variety of air quality-related research topics, including one project that planted her in the Alaskan tundra for a month of remote camping. Ali first became interested in planning while living, working, and studying in Seoul, South Korea, where the commitment to citizen and technology-informed sustainable development has reaped compact, walkable, bikeable and transit-oriented communities. Conceptually, she is interested in the notions of place — its emotional tone, social meaning, and generative potential. She plans to investigate this further through her work with SMAQMD and after the Civic Spark year through graduate studies in either geography or history.

Ali will lend her math and geospatial orientation skills to urban heat island project and the CalEEMod update under the guidance of Shelley Jiang. She also plans to help with mobile source projects, including the Clean Cars for All project led by Katie Cox, and learn all she can about SMAQMD's various air quality efforts.

On a more personal note, Ali is a storyteller and protected bike lane superfan. When she isn't in the office or organizing for environment justice, she is probably reading, working on her zine or experimenting with vegan cuisine. She can be reached at alehman@airquality.org.



Sac Metro Air District is Coming to Knights Landing!

Our team will be attending the Knights Landing Community Center (INC.) Open House & Annual Business meeting on February 1, 2020 to provide the community with information about AB-617 and the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP), and to solicit community guidance on setting funding targets for CAPP incentive funding program.

This is part of the Air District's effort to implement Assembly Bill 617 which aims to address the disproportionate impacts of air pollution in environmental justice communities. The measure requires local air districts to take specific actions to reduce air pollution and toxic air contaminants from commercial and industrial sources. On behalf of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management Air District is currently conducting extensive outreach to residents and other stakeholders in Yolo County to describe the program and seek input on how to implement it. We are working with community groups, community members, environmental organizations and other key stakeholders to develop the funding priorities for the program in the Sacramento Region.